

REVIEW

CREATIVE FORESTRY by Clive Anstey, Steve Thompson and Karen Nichols. Government Printer, Wellington, 1982.

This book undoubtedly fills a need, for it will help forest managers to marshall their ideas on the whole theme of forestry in the landscape.

The book is in five sections — Landscape and Environment, Forests and Landscape, Landscape Planning, People and Forests, and finally Design Notes. As the authors state in the preface: "These notes are only a beginning". However, they are a good beginning. A simple and easily-understood text is juxtaposed with telling (often evocative) pictures and diagrams to show the reader what the authors want to get across.

The title "Creative Forestry" is perhaps a misnomer, for the book is strictly about landscape — how people react to it and how it can be creatively managed, largely in a forest environment.

The colour pictures are particularly good, but some of the black and white reproductions are somewhat disappointing (e.g., p. 26). One difficulty is that some pictures, and several diagrams (e.g., especially pp. 47-50 and 66) have no captions, and it takes some searching cerebral exercises to formulate, mentally, the tie-up between text and illustrations. Moreover, it would be valuable to give a clue to the locations of the pictures, so that anyone wanting to seek further could see them in three dimensions for himself in different circumstances — winter/summer, rain/sunshine, and so on.

There are some minor niggles: the misuse of apostrophes (too common nowadays) in several instances; the occasional missing word (e.g., p. 43, "longer rotation" — species, presumably); the term "Tussock forests" on p. 20. While the shape of the book is no doubt dictated by some of the illustrations (e.g., pp. 14 and 20-21), because of its soft cover it is not easy to hold and read. One might also argue that machinery is not always the "agent of destructive forces" (p. 29), witness Lake Benmore and, in many instances, the sensitive layout of roads which give one the opportunity to find pleasure in the unfolding landscape.

The section on Signs (pp. 100 ff.) gives a clue to the whole book: it "cannot provide the right answers for every situation, but it aims to set guidelines and provoke the right questions". This it certainly does. I am confident that many people will find it both instructive and a pleasure to use.

C.G.R.C.